

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-20 are currently pending. Claim 12 has been amended. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowed/Allowable Claims

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-4, 6-11, and 20, and the indication that claims 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Objections to the Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 12-14 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75, as being substantial duplicates of claims 2-4. Independent claim 12 has been amended to recite that the "flexible vacuum absorbing area [has] a roughly *rectangular* outer portion." (Emphasis added.) Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in Figure 7 of the application. The Applicant submits that claims 12-14 are no longer substantial duplicates of claims 2-4. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 12-14 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

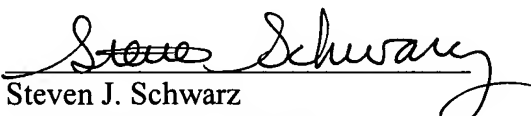
Applicant: Paul V. Kelley
Appl. No. 10/625,508

Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 9, 2005


Steven J. Schwarz
Registration No. 47,070
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, DC 20043-9998
Telephone: (202) 344-4000
Direct Dial: (202) 344-4295
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

679766.1